

HOUSE RESOLUTION 209
By Brooks (Shelby)

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend James H. Bolden,
Director of the Memphis Police Department, for
his meritorious service to the people of
Memphis.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their own concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom and personal safety, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, in providing for the domestic tranquility of the community as a whole, society recognizes the need for a system of laws; the enforcement of the law has been entrusted to a small number of dedicated individuals; and

WHEREAS, these individuals, known as law enforcement officers, daily face the rigors of human conflict in protecting those whom they so selflessly serve; and

WHEREAS, James H. Bolden, Director of the Memphis Police Department, is one such individual, who has served with great bravery and ability in protecting the people of Memphis for more than 30 years; he has been praised for a career marked by selfless service, particularly

his community policing efforts that have made a difference for children and teens in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, a native of Somerville, Director Bolden was Captain of the Hamilton High School Wildcats Football team; he first set his goal of becoming a police officer as a sixth grader at Hamilton Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, he is a graduate of the University of Memphis, where he earned a Bachelor's of Arts degree; in 1993, he graduated from the Federal Bureau of Investigation Academy, and he has also attended the University of Virginia and Southern Illinois University; and

WHEREAS, since joining the Memphis Police Department in 1968, Director Bolden has ascended through the ranks of Sergeant, Lieutenant, Inspector, and Chief Inspector; he retired from the force as Chief Inspector in 1997, but he returned three years later as Deputy Director, eventually to be appointed to serve in the vital position of Director in March of 2003; and

WHEREAS, he has served with a number of units in the Memphis Police Department, including Violent Crimes, Homicide, and Sex Crimes; he also served as the first line supervisor in the Special and General Investigation Divisions, Internal Affairs, and Uniform Patrol; and

WHEREAS, as Commanding Officer of the South Precinct, Director Bolden was recognized as heading the best managed police precinct for community involvement, and as Chief Inspector, he headed the Department's Training Division and managed the recruiting background investigations; and

WHEREAS, during his stellar tenure as Director of the Memphis Police Department, he has designed the model for the first Business and Police Watch of Memphis; he has developed comprehensive plans for the formation of the Memphis Police Department's Citizens Police Academy; and he has co-chaired committees that produced a multidisciplinary approach to the investigation of Child Sexual Abuse in Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, Director Bolden is the founding President of the Afro-American Police Association; in such capacity, he authored the Association's motto: "Save ourselves from ourselves"; and

WHEREAS, his countless professional accomplishments aside, James Bolden is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Renee Michelle Harris, and his two children, Jabiana and Justice; and

WHEREAS, Director Bolden has performed his duties with the utmost skill, dedication, and professionalism; his service can only be categorized as outstanding, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend Director James H. Bolden for his many years of meritorious service with the Memphis Police Department and offer our thanks for a difficult job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.